



News Release

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Statement by SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto Applauding the Launch of a New China Intellectual Property Rights Advisory Program and Encouraging Small and Medium Sized Businesses to Partake in this Important and Free Service

WASHINGTON – Following the announcement today by Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez that the U.S. Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the American Bar Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Chamber of Commerce in China, has launched a new China Intellectual Property Rights Advisory Program http://www.commerce.gov/opa/press/Secretary_Gutierrez/2005_Releases/November/10_IPR%20Advisory%20Program.htm, Hector V. Barreto, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration issued the following statement:

“I would like to thank the U.S. Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the American Bar Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Chamber of Commerce in China, for providing this important mechanism for SMEs (small and medium sized businesses) to obtain free, expert guidance on how to protect their intellectual property in China.

“Through this program, American small and medium-sized enterprises can request a free, one-hour consultation with an experienced volunteer attorney to learn how to protect and enforce intellectual property rights (IPR), such as trademarks, patents or copyrights, in China.

“Small businesses are 97 percent of all U.S. exporters, and their success in international markets, particularly the booming Chinese market, is extremely important to America’s economic health and to the growth and success of these businesses. It is vital for America’s small and medium sized businesses to learn how to protect their intellectual property rights and I encourage all of these businesses to partake in the program.”

More information on this program can be obtained online at: www.export.gov/China and www.Stopfakes.gov

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